

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for blocking electronic text communication distributed in
2 bulk, the method comprising:
3 receiving a first electronic and a second electronic submission;
4 extracting a first portion from the first electronic submission and a second
5 portion from the second electronic submission;
6 determining a first code for the first portion and a second code for the
7 second portion, wherein the first code is indicative of the first portion and the second code
8 is indicative of the second portion;
9 comparing the first code to the second code; and
10 filtering the second electronic submission in response to comparing the
11 first code to the second code.

1 2. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 1, wherein the filtering of the second electronic submission
3 comprises storing the second electronic submission in a bulk mail folder.

1 3. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 1, wherein the first portion is extracted from visible text in the
3 first electronic submission.

1 4. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 1, the method further comprising:
3 modifying a count in response to the comparing of the first code with the
4 second code;
5 determining if the count reaches a threshold;
6 comparing a third code associated with a third message; and
7 filtering the third message if the third code matches the second code.

1 5. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 1, wherein the first portion is related the first code by one of a
3 hash function, a checksum and a cyclic redundancy check (CRC).

1 6. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second codes is represented in less
3 bits than a corresponding portion.

1 7. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second electronic submissions are chosen
3 from the group consisting of an electronic mail message, a chat room comment, an instant
4 message, a newsgroup posting, an electronic forum posting, a message board posting, and
5 a classified advertisement.

1 8. A method for blocking electronic text communication distributed in
2 bulk, the method comprising:
3 receiving a first electronic submission;
4 extracting a first portion from the first electronic submission;
5 determining at least a first code for the first portion, wherein the first code
6 is indicative of the first portion;
7 receiving a second electronic submission;
8 extracting a second portion from the second electronic submission;
9 determining at least a second code for the second portion, wherein the
10 second code is indicative of the second portion;
11 comparing the first code with the second code;
12 modifying a count in response to the comparing of the first code with the
13 second code;
14 determining if the count reaches a threshold; and
15 filtering subsequent electronic submissions similar to the first electronic
16 submission in response to determining if the count reaches the threshold.

1 9. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 8, wherein the filtering subsequent electronic submissions
3 comprises storing the subsequent electronic submissions in a bulk mail folder.

1 10. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 8, wherein the first and second codes are each a number
3 represented in a same number of bits.

1 11. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 8, wherein the first portion is related the first code by one of a
3 hash function, a checksum and a cyclic redundancy check (CRC).

1 12. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 8, wherein each of the first and second codes is represented in less
3 bits than a corresponding portion.

1 13. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 8, wherein the first and second electronic submissions are chosen
3 from the group consisting of an electronic mail message, a chat room comment, an instant
4 message, a newsgroup posting, an electronic forum posting, a message board posting, and
5 a classified advertisement.

1 14. A method for blocking electronic text communication distributed in
2 bulk, the method comprising:
3 receiving a first electronic submission;
4 extracting a first plurality of portions from the first electronic submission;
5 determining a first plurality of codes for the first plurality of portions,
6 wherein each of the first plurality of codes is indicative of its respective portion;
7 receiving a second electronic submission;
8 extracting a second plurality of portions from the second electronic
9 submission;
10 determining a second plurality of codes for the second plurality of
11 portions, wherein each of the second plurality of codes is indicative of its respective
12 portion;
13 comparing the first plurality of codes with the second plurality of codes;
14 modifying a count in response to the comparing of the first plurality of
15 codes with the second plurality of codes;
16 determining if the count reaches a threshold; and
17 filtering similar electronic submissions in response to determining if the
18 count reaches the threshold.

1 15. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 15, wherein the filtering similar electronic submissions comprises
3 storing the similar electronic submissions in a bulk mail folder.

1 16. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 15, wherein the comparing the first plurality of codes with a
3 second plurality of codes comprises determining if a percentage of the first plurality of
4 codes exactly matches one of the second plurality of codes.

1 17. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 15, wherein each of the first plurality of portions is respectively
3 related to its code by one of a hash function, a checksum and a cyclic redundancy check
4 (CRC).

1 18. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second electronic submissions are
3 chosen from the group consisting of an electronic mail message, a chat room comment, an
4 instant message, a newsgroup posting, an electronic forum posting, a message board
5 posting, and a classified advertisement.

1 19. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 15, wherein the codes are each a number represented in a same
3 number of bits.

1 20. The method for blocking electronic text communication distributed
2 in bulk recited in claim 15, wherein each codes is represented in less bits than a
3 corresponding portion.